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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2010

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IMPORT NEWS

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■ **CURTAIN CALL:** A sneak peek at the Port Colborne Operatic Society's tribute to Cole Porter — Red Hot and Cole

Musical puts the 'Port' in Porter



George Duma
BY GEORGE

See Inside: **PUPP'S INSERTS**
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They say the neon lights are bright on Broadway. You know that old song by The Drifters.

Well, every year around this time the lights get quite bright at Lakeshore Catholic High School, as the Port Colborne Operatic Society (PCOS) rolls in for a three-week run. This year's show — *Red Hot and Cole* — opens Feb. 19. I was privileged to be at last Wednesday's rehearsal, the one leading up to last Sunday's dress rehearsal. From the bits and pieces I saw, it's pretty clear PCOS has itself another winner.

The production follows the life of Cole Porter, almost in a documentary fashion. And, of course, it's chock full of Porter's wonderful tunes.

Instead of trying to sum it up, I'll let the program summary tell the story:

"He's 'throwing a ball tonight' and you're all invited to a 'swelligan' theatrical party spanning the life of Broadway's greatest wit; the irrepressible Cole Porter!

"A scintillating mixture of biography and song, *Red Hot and Cole* celebrates the great American songwriter who brought style, elegance and sophistication to the stages and soundstages of Broadway and Hollywood, delighting the world with his devilishly clever rhymes, fresh and unexpected melodies and sassy, sexy sensibility ..."



MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo

Actor Dahlia Brannigan, centre, leads a dance as Bricktop in the Port Colborne Operatic Society's performance of *Red Hot and Cole*.

See BY GEORGE | Page 20

Geoff Tait
 Sales Representative

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upfront

■ wainfleetbriefs

LAST YEAR'S SURPLUS TO BE DIVIDED AMONG LOW RESERVES

WAINFLEET — The Township of Wainfleet finished its 2009 fiscal year in the black.

During last Tuesday's council meeting, aldermen were told last year's operating budget had a surplus of about \$265,000.

Treasurer Robyn Madere said the township's fiscal risk areas are its low reserves, so the surplus funds will be divided and placed into those areas.

That includes \$50,000 for the emergency reserve, \$37,640 to pay off Bulging Rd. bridge work, \$61,000 for the 2010 operations budget, and the balance of about \$116,000 for the working fund reserve.

The final sum may change slightly when year end accounting is complete.

— InPort News Staff

HOUSING STARTS IN DECLINE FROM 2008

WAINFLEET — New housing starts continue to drop in Wainfleet.

Last year, 103 building permits were issued by the township, representing \$5.8 million worth of construction.

Nine single homes were built last year, down from 13 in 2008, 16 in 2007 and 20 in 2006.

Permit values peaked in value for August and September, each seeing \$1.1 million in construction.

— InPort News Staff

■ DEVELOPMENT: Antique shops, apartments planned for former Duke's Hotel

Renos breathe new life into former hotel

KAESHA FORAND
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — The old Duke's Hotel is under renovation and will soon house hundreds of antiques and 10 apartments.

Port Colborne resident Melanie Emburgh has spent more than nine months updating what will soon be the Dukes and Duchesses.

"It had been sitting on the market. We looked at it years ago but it needed too much work."

Between the time Emburgh first looked at the property and today, some work has been completed. But the upper level suffered from water damage and a new roof had to be built.

Current renovations to the 10,000-square-foot building include work on the 10 single apartments on the upper level. Each will feature a living room, efficiency kitchen and one bedroom.

Other repairs include a new roof, putting up siding outside, removing bar tables, benches and painting.

Emburgh hopes to have 15 vendors fill the space. She has already lined up local businesses including Pieces of Time with European antiques and collectibles, Cosa's natural soaps and body products, Emburgh's Loose Ends with Canadian antiques and pieces of history, and Old Mill Antiques which specializes in primitive antiques.

Although details are still being finalized, she's hoping the Dukes and Duchesses will be open seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on most days.

With such a large property, she's also



Staff Photo

The Duke's Hotel is undergoing renovations and will soon bear the name The Dukes and Duchesses with 10 apartments upstairs, a restaurant and an antique co-op in the main portion of the building.

hoping to sell portions of the back property for either commercial use or as a building lot.

Although the old building hasn't been in use much during the last decade, the Duke's Hotel history dates back to the 17th century.

In 1834 the site was home to the Humberstone Hotel. As the two-story building aged, it was slowly demolished and reconstructed.

The Duke's Hotel dates as far back as the 1830s and was named in honour of the Duke of Humberstone. Its founder, William Klee passed the business to his son, then his grandson Al Offord who sold the business made famous for its German food in 1946.

kforand@wellandtribune.ca

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portraits

IceDogs get warm Wainfleet welcome

The Wainfleet Arena went to the dogs last week — the Niagara IceDogs, that is.

Wainfleet residents enjoyed the IceDogs' third RBC community skate of the season. Hundreds filled the arena to watch an hour-long practice, followed by a free skate where team members skated and signed autographs.

— Kaesha Forand,
Staff Photos



Left: A group of fans have their picture taken with team members.

Lower left: No. 8 Alex Friesen autographs shirts for Layne Weaver in orange and Kirkling Vansoleen.

Lower right: IceDogs practice in front of hundreds of fans.



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Ken Koyama, publisher, general manager

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ourview

It's worth inconvenience if lives are saved

Welland is a unique community. It's rural, has lots of character and for certain residents, their address provides another uniqueness.

Residents living along Lakeshore Rd. or in Winger Hamlet have the letter addresses, respectively. It's unique, but as technology moves forward, this type of system — based on concession, lot number and house distance along a lot — doesn't always work.

It might even make life or death. If great-uncle Jim is visiting from Quebec for a family reunion and is relying on a GPS system to find the reunion headquarters in the township, he won't be able to locate the home if he has a letter in the address.

Welland is serviced by seven different postal services — including Port Colborne, Lowbanks and Wellandport — and a number of post offices now require residents include their home number and address, in addition to the RR number.

But it's not only a question of inconvenience, it's also a question of life or death.

The 911 system is being revamped and Welland's address system must be updated to comply with the new system. That means all addresses with letters must be changed.

Council knows something has to be done, but it's in their hands as to how far the township will go to change its addresses.

They are in the process of pondering three options, which would see between 1,000 and 3,000 homes affected by change, depending on the option.

At this time, we don't believe an all-out revamp of the system is necessary. Township staff have devised an effective plan to address alphanumeric anomalies, in addition to numeric anomalies which in some cases means neighbours have a steep number jump of up to 10,000 from one house to another.

Residents might not be happy with the plan, however, if this new change saves even one life during the next decade, it's worth the inconvenience of changing your address.

Helping Haiti

Our lakeside cities have rallied and have done everything from holding bake sales, concerts and penny drives. Every little bit helps when a tragic event such as the Jan. 12 earthquake left millions homeless and hundreds of thousands dead.

Many of the people donating have never visited the country that borders the Dominican Republic, but all they know is there is a need and they'll help in any way they can.

We applaud every effort made to help Haitians and hope the efforts continue as the country tries to rebuild.

SCHOOL LIFE: Ecole Saint Joseph celebrates winter carnival



Supplied Photo

Ecole Saint Joseph recently held its winter carnival, which coincides with Quebec's world-famous winter carnival. Students participated in Olympic activities in addition to skating and broom ball. The yearly tradition involves creating a royal court which, this year, includes queen Tianna Godin and king Tyson Demers, pictured above with boyfriend Karanval.

readers'views

Port needs its wellness centre

I'm getting extremely frustrated reading the letters to the editor from the empty nesters of Port Colborne — the apathetic attitude of a generation that was fortunate to have parents and grandparents invest in a community, only to now turn their backs when called upon to offer present and future generations the same.

Shame on you.

Our recreational facilities are a disgrace and probably the worst of any community in our population range. I haven't talked to one person under the age of 50 that says this facility shouldn't be built. Why were you empty nesters able to live and grow up with new facilities, while me and my children should not?

I returned to Port Colborne after a 25-year career in the Canadian Armed Forces in 2002. I would have moved to any community in the world, but I chose to come back to Port Colborne because Vance Badawey had the city on the move and part of that movement was a new recreational facility. I'm sure if he never left the mayor's office in 2003, that facility would have been built a long time ago.

I've managed recreational facilities a lot larger than this one and \$35 million is not outrageous for what we need. No business owner is ever going to bring his business and his family to a stagnant community that is not willing to invest in itself to enhance its lifestyle. Many speak about our youth

leaving Port Colborne. Well, some have not left. The very people we are trying to keep and attract here favour this project. Where would they go if we do not proceed? What message would we be sending them?

We can't afford not to build it.

This is going to be a wellness centre, not a sports centre. The YMCA in Welland is also a wellness centre. Go sit in its lobby and of all ages that pass through. You will see that the majority of the patrons in that facility are of senior age. Add to this project, facilities for growing numbers in basketball, volleyball, soccer and hockey.

This facility is going to be built and will be built for the good of all Port Colborne residents, today and tomorrow. Just because you can't handle change doesn't mean the rest of us have to suffer.

When my daughter is using the new gymnasium, my neighbourhood taking a skate, friends going for a swim and I'm in the new therapeutic pool rearing my middle aged bones, I'm going to say a little prayer and for you second, feel sorry for you.

May I state with respect it's our turn. This generation is prepared to move this community forward like those that did so before us. We learned from the best — our parents, grandparents and great-grandparents. Let us all come together and keep up that tradition.

— Bryan Elliott, Port Colborne

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AFRICA

The right to secede



Gwynne Dyer

Ban Ki-moon is not the best secretary-general the United Nations ever had, but he has grasped the essential nature of his job.

The UN is an organization made up of sovereign states and their highest priority is the preservation of their own privileges. It is the trade union of the sovereign states of the world and Ban is their shop steward. Which is why he said what he did last month.

Speaking just before the African Union summit opened in Addis Ababa, the UN secretary-general declared that both the UN and the AU had a big responsibility to maintain peace in Sudan and make unity attractive. "It is not immediately obvious that peace and unity are compatible in Sudan, where civil war killed about 2 million people and created 4 million refugees between 1983 and 2005, but Ban was in no doubt about it."

The fighting in Sudan ended in 2005 when the northern-based government and the southern-based rebels signed a Comprehensive Peace Agreement that created a unity government in Khartoum and a separate regional government in the south — and promised the southerners a referendum in the session next year to maintain promise was what stopped the fighting, and despite many crises and clashes it has held for five years.

Not only that, but the dictator in Khartoum, President (and ex-general) Omar al-Bashir, recently declared yet again that he will respect a southern decision to secede.

"The National Congress Party favours unity," he said in December. "But if the result of the referendum is separation, then we in the NCP will be the first to take up this decision and to support it."

So here is this Korean bureaucrat, Ban Ki-moon, urging African countries to back the unity campaign of the regime in Khartoum — a regime whose leader, President Bashir, is under indictment by the International Criminal Court for the massacres carried out by government-backed militias in Darfur.

What's more, Ban Ki-moon is ultimately in control of the United Nations troops who are stationed in Sudan to guarantee the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

Let be clearly said which side he backed in the referendum.

"We'll work hard to avoid a possible secession."

■ GWYNNE DYER

What would happen if secessions succeed?

FROM PAGE 4

Who does this guy think he is? He knows. He is the shop steward of the Federation of Sovereign States and Allied Trades (also known as the United Nations), and his job is to preserve the rights and privileges of its members. Their most important right, of course, is to keep control of all their territory forever, regardless of the views of the local people.

The African Union is particularly devoted to preserving the unity of all its members, because Africa's borders are arbitrary and irrational. If any of the disparate ethnic groups that are trapped together in a country A were allowed to secede, then the demand for similar secessions in countries B to Z would be irresistible, or so the African orthodoxy has it.

The Secessionists was the paramount rule of the old Organisation of African Unity and it survived unbroken until Eritrea got its independence from Ethiopia in 1993. That was not an encouraging precedent, since Eritrea and Ethiopia soon ended up at war with each other, and no further secessions have been recognized since.

But there is another way to look at this, and that is to count the cost of all the wars that have been fought in Africa to prevent secessions. From the Biafran war in Nigeria in the 1960s down through the various secessionist movements in Congo and Ethiopia and on to the breakaway move-

ments in Sudan's south and west (Darfur) today, at least 10 million Africans have been killed. For what?

Nobody except some ruling elites would be worse off if the secessions had been allowed to succeed. The Nigerian elite would have somewhat less money to shut into its overseas bank accounts, since the oil money would have stayed in the south-east (Biafra), and a new Biafran ruling elite would have bigger Swiss accounts.

Maybe what remained of Nigeria would have split into a Muslim north and a Yoruba-speaking Christian south-west, since without Biafra the country would have become a Muslim-majority state. So what? Maybe everybody would have been happier that way.

Most people will probably be happier if Sudan does split in the referendum planned for January, 2011. Those in the Muslim, Arabic-speaking north would have co-existed peacefully with the various Christian and animist ethnic groups of the south if they had been left to their own devices. However, the northern ruling elite imposed Islamic law as a consolidating force, and the southern elites responded with appeal to ethnic solidarity.

If the south leaves next year, it will take most of the oil with it. That is why the northern elite fought so hard to save "national unity."

But the oil still has to go out to the sea through northern territory, so the revenue will still be shared. After two decades of killing, Sudan is broken, and the best solu-

tion is independence for the south.

Unless Ban Ki-moon and his trade union get their way, in which case the war will resume.

Gwynne Dyer is a London-based independent journalist whose articles are published in 45 countries.

Ask the HEALTH EXPERT

TANYA BIRRELL Digestive Care Consultant



Can you please explain the origin of the Strauss Herb Company and their world famous Strauss Heartdrops?

Strauss Herb Company's and its traditional products are the result of eight generations of practice in development, production and application of herbal remedies. Most products have been in use for centuries, having been passed down through generations of the Strauss family.

The chair was almost broken when Jim Strauss took a career in heavy industry instead of applying the herbal training he received from his grandmother. However, fate intervened and at age 57 and he had a serious heart attack. He couldn't walk, or sleep through and was told he would die without surgery and drugs. Thankfully, he remembered an alternative. His Son Peter was 15 at the time and his Dad had him obtain and process a collection of herbs until he was satisfied with the tincture. This formulation diminished Jim's chest pain in 2 weeks. Now he could sleep lying down. A week later he was taking short walks, and in less than 2 months Jim returned to work at SHC. This experience and his recovery convinced the Strauss family they had to return to their family traditions.

What do people who take the Strauss Heartdrops report? "My name is [K.G.], I am 76 years old. I am a diabetic and take insulin twice a day. My right leg is amputated below the knee. My left leg is numb below the knee, but after taking the Heartdrops for 2 months, I am getting feeling and circulation. I use to be constipated but now I also used to sleep 10 - 12 hours and wake up still tired, now I wake up before the

alarm goes off and feel refreshed. I feel GOOD. Thank you Strauss Herb Drops".

Strauss Heartdrops are formulated from carefully selected herbs that, through generations of experience and hundreds of years of historical herbal usage, have been considered beneficial for the circulatory system and overall vitality.

Ingredients used in the production of Strauss heartdrops are garlic, hawthorn, mistletoe, motherwort, cayenne, bilberry, white willow, water and alcohol.

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We suggest taking the Strauss Heartdrops a minimum of 12 consecutive months. Most people notice results in two months. For those with a known history of problems, we suggest Heartdrops for an extended period of 18 months, at a rate of 1.25ml to 2.5ml, three times daily, and then for to the indefinite maintenance regime.



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■ PET ADVICE

What you need to know about group one sporting dogs

Sporting dogs in general are alert, powerful, enthusiastic hunting companions, eager to please, energetic, intelligent, confident and friendly.

Within this group, the dogs are divided into subgroups related to how they work when hunting. So we have pointers, retriev-

ers, setters and spaniels. Also included in this group is the scribe from Hungary and the weimaraner from Germany.

The sporting dogs are either medium or large in size. Most of the spaniels and the Nova Scotia Duck Tolling retriever would be considered medium in size. The Ameri-



Sandie Bingley
IT'S A DOG'S LIFE

can and the English Cocker Spaniels would be the smallest in this group. The rest of the dogs would be large in size.

If you are looking for a breed with minimal coat care and short hair, you may want to consider the pointers, labs, vizslas, and weimaraners. The American Cocker Spaniel, although one of the smallest in this group, needs the most coat care.

In most cases, a professional

groomer would be needed on a regular basis to keep them looking nice. Most of the breeds usually do fine with regular brushing and combing from their owners.

The sporting dogs are usually tolerant of children and enjoy living in the house with the family. Training is needed to make them settle down in the house.

Obedience training is a must to do keep control and teach manners. Daily exercise will keep these dogs happy and less troublesome in the home.

Next time: The pointers of group one sporting dogs.

Don and Sandie Bingley of Sandon Kennels in Sheraton have trained dogs and bred Pembroke Welsh, Corgis and Tibetan Spaniels for 35 years. They can be reached at 905-894-4945.

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EYE EXAMS ARRANGED

Recipe of the Week

Feb. 19th
to Mar. 4th

INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups frozen chopped spinach
- 1 finely chopped onion
- ¼ cup olive oil
- ¼ tsp. Sea Salt
- ¼ tsp. ground Black Pepper
- 1 tsp. Parsley Flakes
- ½ tsp. each of Basil, Oregano & Granulated Garlic
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup feta cheese
- 3 lb. (454g) thawed Phyllo Pastry
- ¼ cup melted butter

Our Port Country Pantry's SPANAKAPITTA (Greek Spinach Pie)

1. Microwave spinach according to package instructions. Drain well & dry it. Cook onion in olive oil until tender; add spinach and seasonings. Stir to combine. Let cool.
2. Break eggs into a mixing bowl; beat and crumble in feta cheese. Add spinach mixture & stir to combine.
3. Cut the bottom & sides of 30 14" x 30" x 2" baking sheet (rimmed edges) with non-stick cooking spray. Line pan with 8 layers of Phyllo pastry, brushing each layer with melted butter before placing them next sheet on top. Cover remaining pastry with a damp towel. Place filling mix pastry & cover with 6 additional sheets, brushing each with butter. With a sharp pointed fork, cut the top layers of pastry into squares. Sprinkle a little water over top to keep Phyllo pastry from drying. Bake in preheated 350 degree F oven, until Phyllo pastry is golden. Remove from oven. Let stand for 5 minutes and serve.

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■ **AUTOMOTIVE:** Welland Toyota owner says company went 'way over the call of duty'

Dealer applauds company recalls

ALLAN BENNER
InPort News Staff

WELLAND — There's nothing unusual about recalls in the automobile industry.

"Unfortunately, they're a part of life," said George Farlow, owner of the Welland Toyota dealership at 42 Durr Dr.

"Vehicles have thousands and thousands of moving parts and things do come back for recall."

What is unusual, he said, is the amount of hysteria surrounding the recent recalls of Toyota vehicles. And Farlow, who strongly believes in the products he sells, is taking it personally.

"I know what I sell and I believe in what I sell," he said.

Toyota officials have handled the recent recall of its vehicles "impeccably," he said.

"They went way over the call of duty."

But for their efforts, he said, the company is "being raked over the coals."

He's particularly concerned that negative publicity is "scaring the people to death."

"It's totally wrong."

He's concerned about "the people out there that are considering a Toyota, that are reading the negative news that's wrong, totally misplaced and they're looking elsewhere."

The problems with accelerator pedals — a major situation affecting Toyota — are common to many vehicles — but only Toyota is doing something about it, Farlow said.

He said the problems occur when aftermarket floor mats are placed over floor mats supplied with vehicles. The added floor mats can cause the accelerator pedal to become jammed against

them.

Toyota recalled more than three million cars to fix accelerator pedals. Using a template, the accelerator pedals are being cut shorter to allow them to easily clear any added floor mats.

Farlow said the recall of the Prius is not to correct a life-threatening flaw, but an effort by the company to make its ABS breaking system is a little more user-friendly.

"My daughter drives a Prius in Toronto... and I have no concerns about her whatsoever."

Like other Toyota dealerships, Farlow said his will do its best to accommodate people who are concerned about their vehicles. He said he would come into the shop on a Sunday and personally do the repair work if it can give one of his customers peace of mind.

"If people can't come in until Saturday or Sunday, we're prepared to be open to get it done," he said, adding 99% of his customers have been "really happy with the way the recall is being handled."

Despite the negative publicity Toyota has received as a result of its recalls, Farlow hopes it can have a positive impact on the automobile industry as a whole.

"Here's the best thing about the whole thing. I think Toyota has now raised the bar for recalls," he said. "They've brought it all out into the open and they raised the standard of how you deal with recalls."

He's eager to see how other automobile manufacturers deal with recalls in the future.

Farlow said he won't let the negative publicity interfere with his plans to build a new \$4-million, 800-square-metre dealership on Niagara St.

abenner@wellandtribune.ca



ALLAN BENNER
Staff Photo

Welland Toyota dealership owner George Farlow is concerned that his company is being raked over the coals over recent recalls.



Township Of Wainfleet Notice Of Public Meeting

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Township of Wainfleet will hold a public meeting to consider a Draft Lot Grading and Drainage Policy.

Details of the Public Meeting:

Date: Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Wainfleet Council Chambers
19M43 Hwy #3, Wainfleet

The purpose of this meeting is to ensure that adequate information is made available to the public and to afford any person an opportunity to make representation in respect of the subject matter. If you are unable to attend the meeting, your representations can be filed in writing whether by mail or personal delivery.

A copy of the Draft Lot Grading and Drainage Policy is available for inspection in the Township Planning Department during regular office hours or on the Township's website www.township.wainfleet.on.ca. Please contact Grant Munday, Planner at (905) 899-3463 with any questions or concerns regarding the proposed Draft Policy.

Tanya Lamb, Clerk
Township of Wainfleet
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INPORT NEWS PHOTOS Joe Cash

Prophets of Charlotte rocked the house with a heavy metal performance.

■ HAITI-STOCK 2010

Concert rings up support for Haiti

PAIGE THOMPSON
For InPort News

Since Haiti was struck with a devastating earthquake, people have been trying to help by raising awareness and donating money.

Two Port Colborne High School students, Chase King and Annie Salvage, organized a benefit concert to help out. Haiti-Stock was held in Port Colborne on Feb. 13 at the Hub, from 7 p.m. to 2 a.m., featuring 19 local attractions.

A fellow musician and teacher at Port High, Scott Grover, gave King the idea of a battle of the bands. Once Salvage caught wind, she was on board.

Kicking off the show was Blue Bear band, Universal Thought. This three-man band pleased the crowd with cover songs and originals. Members of the band said they offered their assistance to the great cause because they really wanted to help out.

A band from Jean Vanier Secondary School, Xprime, was second on the play list. They transform greatest hits into their own versions, including Pink Floyd's *The Wall*. They also featured an original called *Fire and Ice*.

Two Grade 10 students from Port High sold the crowd with a lovely duet including some original tunes.

Next taking the stage was the heavy metal band Prophets of Charlotte and the crowd started to get riled up in the music.

Soloist, Chelsea Crites was next to

take to the stage, followed by Port High soloist Haley Morrison. Her vocals were accompanied by the piano and she had great harmony adding for more fantastic performances.

Emergency Exit, a local band from the Welland area, jammed after, followed by Beth Moore, a graduate from Port High.

A duet was conducted by Blue Bear siblings, Ben and Katie Robinson.

Pompeii Henge astonished the audience with their musical gift.

Another Blue Bear graduate soloist, Adam Morin, dazzled the crowd.

Pete Tremblay and The Boozey Truth rocked the stage afterwards.

Other bands and soloists that took to the stage included Validity, Jayk Beck and Chris Haymes, Territory and Babbar.

Salvage and King seemed proud of the event.

"We couldn't do it without the owners of the Hub, all of the participating bands, and of course the audience."

They had hoped to raise \$1,000 but were able to exceed that and raised approximately \$2,200.

"Exceeding that limit felt great, amazing. We raised so much money for such a good cause."

Paige Thompson is a Port Colborne High School student



2010 DOG LICENSES FINAL NOTICE FOR DISCOUNTED RATES

46500071

City of Port Colborne 2010 Dog Licenses are due March 15th.

The following discounted rates apply for licenses purchased on or before March 15th:

Un-Neutered/Un-spayed Dogs	\$25.00
Neutered/Spayed Dogs (proof required)	\$15.00

After March 15th the regular rates of \$35.00 and \$25.00 apply.

Tags may be purchased at:

- City Hall, 86 Charlotte Street
- Independent Discount Pet Supply, 730 Main Street West
- Pet Valu, Westside Place Plaza, Westside Road
- The Port Colborne Animal Shelter, 1080 Elm Street

Dog owners who fail to purchase a dog license before the due date are liable for a set fine under Part 1 Provincial Offences Act.

Peter Senese
Director of Community &
Corporate Services and Treasurer



PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING #2

City of Port Colborne
Olde Humberstone Main Street Community Improvement Plan
Streetscape Design

The City of Port Colborne is requesting further input into the proposed streetscape design for the Old Humberstone Main Street Community Improvement Plan area at the next scheduled Public Information Meeting. The Meeting will be held on February 23, 2010, from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in Committee Room 3, City Hall.

There will be no formal presentation, the draft streetscape drawings will simply be on display for information and commenting purposes. Comments received will be included in the Planning & Development Department's recommendation report to Council for March 8, 2010, for consideration and approval of the final streetscape design.

We invite you to participate in this event and welcome your input. For more information, please contact: Lindsay Richardson, Community/Policy Planner at 905-835-2901 ex 129 or by email at llindsayrichardson@portcolborne.ca.

46500071

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■ DEVELOPMENT

Increase in building permits doesn't reflect housing

InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Building permit activity soared in Port Colborne in 2008 with the city issuing building permits totalling \$28.7 million.

Those figures are up from \$13.7 million in 2008 and is largely due to a regional investment in the water treatment plant.

Ernie Croner, chief building official for the city said although the numbers have increased, the city isn't seeing housing development like previous years.

"It's still not as good as previous years with 25 to 30 houses."

He cited the city's \$15.6 million wastewater treatment upgrades for the jump in construction value.

In 2009, 267 building permits were issued in Port Colborne. Twelve were for single family homes, up from 11 in 2008. Four townhomes and eight apartment units were also issued building permits.

"The development of a Niagara-based economic development centre will become a driver of innovative economic activity that will increase Niagara's competitive position," said Mayor Vance Badawey in a press release.

"With this and additional investments, we are already starting to move forward to make things happen."

The city still has 264 single lots, 86 lots for semi-detached homes and 69 lots for townhouse apartments remaining.

Badawey said with the city's infrastructure investments, it can help pave the way for economic diversification.

Through the development, the city collected \$93,327 in building permit fees, \$10,875 in plumbing fees and \$33,130 in development charges.

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NOTICE OF THE PASSING OF A ZONING BY-LAW UNDER
SUBSECTION 34 OF THE PLANNING ACT, AS AMENDED, BY
THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF PORT COLBORNE

TAKE NOTICE THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF PORT COLBORNE passed By-law 5413/10/10 on the 8th day of February, 2010 under Section 34 of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990.

The purpose and effect of the Zoning By-law Amendment (By-law 5413/10/10) is to add new provisions and update existing regulations in Zoning By-law 1150/97/81, as amended. The amendments include:

1. New & Amended Regulations in the following sections

- 4.3 – Lots with More Than One Use or Zone
- 4.4 – Non-Conforming Buildings, Structures and Lots
- 4.23 – Parking Regulations

2. Amended Regulations

4.23.(i)(iv) No recreational vehicle, mobile home, motor home, trailer or tourist trailer may be parked or stored in any front yard or exterior side yard in any residential zone, except where no off street parking space is available or can be provided in the interior side or rear yard they may be permitted in the front yard or exterior side yard provided they are setback a minimum of 1.5m from the front lot line or exterior side lot line on an in-season basis from May 15 to October 15 of each year only, however in no case shall such vehicles be parked or stored within the required sight triangle on a corner lot.

3. Administrative Changes.

Any person or agency may appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board in respect of the By-law by filing with the Clerk of the City of Port Colborne **not later than the 11th day of March, 2010** a notice of appeal setting out the objection to the By-law and the reasons in support of the objection together with a certified cheque in the amount of \$125.00 payable to the Minister of Finance for each appeal.

Only individuals, corporations and public bodies may appeal a zoning by-law to the Ontario Municipal Board. A notice of appeal may not be filed by an unincorporated association or group. However, a notice of appeal may be filed in the name of an individual who is a member of the association or the group on its behalf. If you wish to appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board, a copy of an appeal form is available from the Ontario Municipal Board's website at www.omb.gov.on.ca.

Copies of the Zoning By-law Amendment are available for inspection in the Clerk's office, located at City Hall, 66 Charlotte Street, Port Colborne, during regular office hours (from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday).

Dated at the City of Port Colborne this 19th day of February 2010.

Ashley Grigg, City Clerk
City of Port Colborne
66 Charlotte Street, Port Colborne, Ontario
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■ HEALTH CARE

Niagara Diabetes Centre moves closer to Port

MARYANNE FIRTH
InPort News Staff

Niagara Diabetes Centre has found a new home at Welland hospital.

Originally located at Niagara Health System's Ontario St. site in St. Catharines, the centre was moved to Welland at the end of January as part of the NHS hospital improvement plan.

Niagara Diabetes Centre is an outpatient regional program that focuses on prevention and education for people living with diabetes.

The centre's main office, which acts as the hub for five satellite sites, has been fully operational in Welland since Feb. 1.

Staff work with patients, while also sharing information of diabetes with local schools, boards, businesses and health-care professionals.

The Welland location, which has been undergoing renovations since October, now provides enhanced patient services and co-ordinates appointment bookings for the satellite communities in Fort Erie, Grimsby, Niagara Falls, Port Colborne and St. Catharines.

Services available at the new Welland location include physician-managed clinics, specialty appointments for pediatric patients and pregnant women, initiation of insulin injections and introduction of insulin pump therapy.

The centre is a sort of "one-stop shop" for someone with diabetes, says centre manager Cathy Lanteligne. They can access physicians, registered nurses, dietitians, a social worker for youths and diabetes educators all under one roof.

"When you deal with diabetes, you deal with the whole person."

The new facility includes two large examination rooms, an insulin room, a pediatric room and a reception area where files of all the regional centre's clients are stored.

See **NIAGARA DIABETES CENTRE** | Page 13

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■ FAMILY DAY FUN

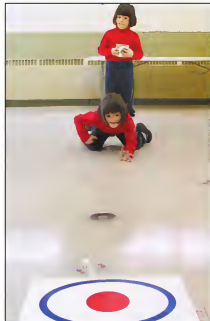


KAESHA FORAND Staff Photos

Above: Melissa Pew and her sister Erica race pop-sicle stick luges created at the Wainfleet fire hall during Family Day Olympics hosted by the library.

Far left: Darcy Mathias helps his son Rafferty on the ice on Family Day during a free skate held at the Wainfleet Arena.

Right: Erica Pew lines up her curling shot while sister Melissa looks over her shoulder during the Wainfleet Public Library's family Olympics held at the fire hall Monday for Family Day.



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■ NIAGARA DIABETES CENTRE

New 'one-stop shop' for diabetics

FROM PAGE 11

Lanteigne says the biggest benefit to the new site is the size of the space, which allows medical students to come in and observe.

Having medical students at the centre will hopefully encourage them to stay in Niagara once they're practising full-time, she adds.

All calls made to the centre, for appointment bookings or otherwise, are now run directly through the Welland site.

Lanteigne says the centre receives, on average, 700 calls a day for appointment bookings and diabetes management support.

She says it's important for centre patients to know they haven't closed shop, but instead simply moved its headquarters to Welland.

It's also crucial to raise awareness of the centre in the community, so people in need can access the services they're entitled to, she adds.

In Canada, between 2% and 3% of the population has diabetes. In Ontario, the number is beyond an epidemic level, at 6% to 7%, Lanteigne says.

Niagara's rate is even higher, with 8% to 9% of the population facing a diabetes diagnosis.

The centre has roughly 24,000 patients registered in its programs.

"Research says we're only reaching half of them," Lanteigne says.

With Niagara's aging population, the region is expected to have a higher rate of chronic diseases, such as diabetes, making education key.

The Niagara Diabetes Centre program has been in existence since August 1987. Since its inception, the program has gone from "purely education" to "full diabetes management support," she says.

There are group programs run through the centre on a regular basis for patients at different stages of dealing with their diagnosis, such as those who've been newly diagnosed

and are looking to learn more about diabetes. One-on-one support is also available.

Lanteigne says staff will work to help patients iron out any changes that may need to be made with their regime if any life changes, such as pregnancy, occur.

Centre staff also work to help pediatric patients transition into adult patients, addressing such issues as hormones and requirements to gain a driver's licence when diagnosed with diabetes.

Lanteigne says the centre is filled with resources about diabetes in hopes of educating patients how to live their lives normally while monitoring their blood-sugar levels.

Patients can learn to decipher "red flags," their bodies might alert them to when blood-sugar levels get too high.

The Niagara Diabetes Centre is the only

diabetes program in the region registered by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to support Type 1 diabetes patients seeking funding for their insulin pump therapy. Insulin pumps, which are continuously worn by patients, can cost upwards of \$6,500 each plus the cost of supplies.

Up until a year ago, only youth 18 years old and under were eligible for support for the pumps. Support has since been extended for adults with Type 1 diabetes, but patients must meet a list of criteria to qualify, Lanteigne says.

The increase in funding has allowed the centre to start 79 patients on the pump in the past year, compared to less than 20 in years prior, she says.

For more information about Niagara Diabetes Centre, call 905-682-4200 or toll-free 1-800-263-2480.



MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo

Cathy Lanteigne, manager of Niagara Diabetes Centre, shows a type of insulin injector commonly used by patients. The centre recently moved its main office from St. Catharines to the Welland hospital.

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■ WAINFLEET

Council defers decision on proposed address changes to Feb. 23 meeting

KAESHA FORAND
InPort News Staff

WAINFLEET — The great address debate will have to wait another week.

Township council last Tuesday night deferred its decision on whether to change street addresses to allow full input from council.

Ald. Evan Main, Rudy Warkentin and Ted Hessels were present for the meeting while Mayor Barb Henderson and Ald. Ron Kramer were absent.

Henderson was away due to a family death.

Although staff and the fire department recommended changing alphanumeric addresses and address irregularities (Option 2), Hessels voiced his opposition to the \$100,000 plan and recommended council go with a different option that would see 1,280 alphanumeric addresses changed only at a cost of \$85,000 (Option 1).

"If we go with Option 2 our concession and lot numbers will not match our house numbers," Hessels said.

"I think Option 1 is better to go with."

CHO Scott Luey said Option 2 was

favoured by staff because it's more in line with other municipalities. He said with that option, "the numbers progress as you go down the road."

He cited Side Rd. 20 as an example because house numbers can jump by 10,000 from neighbour to neighbour.

He also noted that post offices now mandate that a street name and house address be added to mail in addition to a rural route number.

"Things must be done to be compliant with 911."

To make things even more complicated, some Wainfleet residents have Port Colborne, Lowbanks and Wellandport mailing addresses.

Main, who was acting as mayor Tuesday in Henderson's absence, said he would like to hear staff reiterate the benefits of an Option 3, which would see the township's entire address system reworked at a cost of about \$170,000.

Warkentin successfully moved that the decision be deferred until the Feb. 23 meeting to allow input from all members of council.

kforand@wellandtribune.ca

■ BUSINESS: 'Nightie night' to old location for Main St. lingerie shop



KAESHA FORAND Staff Photo

Linda Stoit of Flirt Intimate Apparel puts the finishing touches on a sale rack at the store's new location at 237 Main St. Stoit moved her store from one part of Main St. to another because she believes in the street's revitalization and BIA efforts. The store will continue to sell bras, shapewear and hosiery.

■ localbrief

PORT HIGH SWIMS ITS WAY TO OFSSA

The Port High swim team worked hard at the SOSSA swim meet at Brock and are now on their way to OFSSA March 2 and 3 in Etobicoke.

At SOSSA, Michelle Gecan placed first in the 100-metre freestyle, second in both the 100-metre back and 50-metre freestyle. Hay Morrison placed second in the

50-metre breast stroke.

Trevor Stuart placed third in the 50 metre freestyle and backstroke and the 100-metre freestyle.

The small team's success is a result of their dedication which involves swimming twice a week and participate in monthly competitions.

—Wilma Bussi, For InPort News

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COMPANY FINED \$60,000 FOR ACCIDENT

PORT COLBORNE — Metal forging company IMT Corp. has been fined \$60,000 after a worker's arm was crushed at the company's Port Colborne facility.

On March 11, 2009, a worker was greasing a die machine at Port Colborne Drop Forge when he accidentally stepped on a pedal that activated the machine — crushing his forearm. The employee was airlifted to Hamilton General Hospital. A Ministry of Labour investigation found that the machine had not been locked out to ensure it could not be reactivated while an employee

conducted maintenance or cleaned the equipment.

"Charges were laid Aug. 17," said ministry spokesperson Bruce Siewert. "Employers are ultimately responsible for safety in their workplaces and so the charge was laid against this employer."

IMT pleaded guilty to failing to ensure the machine was locked out before being greased. The company was convicted for a violation of the Occupational Health and Safety Act and the fine was imposed on Feb. 4 by justice of the peace David Brown in Ontario court of justice in St. Catharines. In addition to the fine, the court imposed a 25% victim fine surcharge, as required by the Provincial Offences Act.

— InPort News Staff

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■ AN EXTRA HELPING OF GENEROSITY: The Port Colborne Hospital Foundation elimination draw dinner

KAESHA FORAND
Staff Photos

During the Port Colborne Hospital Foundation elimination draw dinner, the foundation received an \$11,000 cheque from the ladies auxiliary to purchase a lift for the second floor therapeutic bath tub. Carmella Rulli, chair of the foundation board, and vice-chair Bill Armstrong received the cheque from Sharon Leavere and Jo Clements.



The Port Colborne Hospital Foundation elimination draw dinner was held last Friday at the Italian Hall where more than 230 residents supported the fundraiser. Debbie Spraggett, foundation administrator, and board chair Carmella Rulli are pictured beginning some of the draws held during the evening. The event raised \$15,000 towards a \$40,000 bathing unit. The final three draw ticket holders split the final \$2,100 prize money and each donated \$100 to the foundation.



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■ BY GEORGE: Red Hot and Cole

Community giving steals the spotlight behind the scenes

FROM PAGE 1

"It's a champagne tribute to a glittering age gone by, and the man and talent who was Cole Porter."

I await PCOS's annual show with an anticipation that begins in January and culminates with us sitting in our seats waiting for the curtain to rise. There is just something so comforting and warm about going to see the show. It's like spending an evening with an old familiar friend. You know the kind; you may not see each other for months but when you finally do catch up to one another, it's like it was last week and you don't miss a beat.

But as magical as the shows can be — last year's *Wizard of Oz* was utterly spectacular — there is another side to PCOS, one that is not always on public display. It's the generous side, the community-minded side we don't always hear about but should.

A not-for-profit organization run by unpaid volunteers, PCOS has raised — and distributed around the community — thousands and thousands of dollars over the years.

Although PCOS was founded in 1945, it was in 1966 that it incorporated as a Canada Revenue Agency charity. And while the organization's mandate includes bringing Broadway home to the Niagara area at the least possible cost and showcasing local talent, it also includes donating all proceeds above production costs to other local charities, especially ones involving children.

In the beginning, in 1945, all proceeds went towards the Port Colborne General Hospital's pediatric ward. When our hospital shut down its pediatric ward, PCOS turned some of its attention to Sick Children's Hospital in Toronto, becoming a blue ribbon sponsor and donating more than \$7,000 between 1993 and 2009.

The other donations over the years are far too extensive

to list here. However, there are some highlights.

For example, in 1988, PCOS got together with local music teachers to revive the annual music festival that is the Port Colborne Festival of the Arts. For two years, the society picked up all the festival's expenses until the revived venture could stand on its own. To this day, PCOS sponsors a day at the festival to the tune of \$500 and offers four \$100 scholarships annually. As of last March, the society has donated more than \$21,000 to the festival to encourage young, musical talent.

Apart from the arts, however, PCOS has donated to all kinds of other local charities over the years like Santa's Helpers, Salvation Army, Port Colborne Marine Rescue, Christianview Centre, Help A Child Smile, Ride For Cancer and so many, many more.

The point is, when we go see a PCOS show, we're not only taking in a wonderful Broadway production, we're helping the community. And hey, for \$17 a ticket, it's hard to find anywhere in Niagara where we can get more bang for our entertainment buck.

While Bette Kalalief's official title is PCOS business manager, anyone familiar with the organization knows she is so much more than that. The Port Colborne Operatic Society is in her blood and has been for decades. Same with Bette's husband Ed.

Bette often comes across as tough as nails, but I know she is really just a sweet, kind sofie with a heart of gold. She wants people to know what the society does so they'll come out to the show and support the cause, but has always been the type who is reluctant to shine the spotlight on herself.

"We need community support in order to carry on with our productions and our good deeds," she says. "Maybe I



MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo

Actors Bill Marshall, Tim Barnai, Clayton Vella and Tony Mancuso light up the stage during the dress rehearsal of the Port Colborne Operatic Society's *Red Hot and Cole*.

am barking up the wrong tree but there are two sides to our contribution to this area. It's been 65 years — will we be able to continue as most of our nucleus is getting older? It depends entirely on our community support both in purchasing a ticket for a great musical, *Red Hot and Cole*, and becoming part of the action by becoming a member in September.

Show dates are Feb. 19, 20, 21, 24, 27 and 28, and March 5, 6 and 7. Reserved-seating tickets are available from cast members and at Rossman's Clothing.

So go. You won't regret it. And to all the wonderful folks involved with PCOS and *Red Hot and Cole*, break a leg.

George Diuna is a resident of Port Colborne and has spent 30 years in the newspaper business. He is currently a member of the journalism faculty at Niagara College. He welcomes comments and column suggestions and can be reached at gdiuna@cgoca.ca.

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